Walton–on–Trent CE(C) Primary and Nursery School
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Friday 17th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted Report

As you will be aware, we had an Ofsted inspection on the 17th and 18th October 2023. Our school was last inspected in 2011. This is a far longer gap than normal due to an exemption on inspections for schools graded outstanding by the DfE in 2012. This exemption was removed in 2020.

We joined the John Tayor Multi-Academy Trust (JT MAT) in January 2019. This made us technically a new school and therefore exempt from inspection for three years from our joining date. We were, naturally, anticipating an Ofsted visit at any point and we were prepared as such.

We are extremely proud of the performance of our whole school team during the process of inspection and we are delighted with the report. We feel that it really captures the ethos of our school and the high standard of education we provide. We sincerely hope you enjoy reading it and feel it is reflective of the service we provide to our community. There are many strengths to celebrate and also areas of suggested improvement, which we are already beginning to address. As we have had a section 5 inspection in 2023, we anticipate that our next routine Ofsted inspection will be in 2027.

Whilst we continue to strive to become an 'outstanding' school, the Ofsted framework has been changed many times since 2011 resulting in the graded goalposts being changed dramatically. For context, the vast majority schools previously graded outstanding are now being classified as 'good'. This does not mean that the schools are being downgraded as the two gradings (in our case in 2011 and 2023) are not comparable because the criteria of the judgement are completely different.

If you have any questions about the report, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Once again, I thank you all for your continued support, both in the Ofsted process and beyond. I am incredibly proud to continue to serve our wonderful school community.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Gaffiney
Head Teacher